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21 January 1983

Dr. Enrique Flores Lupiz
Undersecretary for Foreign Policy
Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship
Government of the Republic of Argentina
Buenos Aires

Dear Ambassador Lupiz:

I am taking the opportunity of our meeting today to leave with you my request that the appropriate officials in your government clarify the disappearance July 20, 1977 of Monica Marta Lemos de Lavalley. Monica was eight months pregnant when she disappeared and I appeal for your assistance in investigating this case, to assuage the anguish of her family which I share.

I would also appreciate your assistance in obtaining the early release of five individuals now imprisoned in Argentina. They are:

Isidoro Gelstein - +
Emilia Gelstein - +
Blanca Molciucsky ~
Emilio Enrique Arquiola ~
Jorge Mario Domingo Marca ~

Isidoro Gelstein was born in 1923 and was a journalist interested primarily in tourism. He was detained in 1975 under PEN in Buenos Aires for "subversive activity." He was not tried until 1980 and with little due process even then. He is being held in Rawson.

Emilia Gelstein, the wife of Isidoro, is about 56 years old. She had worked as a counselor at a mental health hospital in Buenos Aires and also did research on Parkinson's disease in addition to teaching at the University of Buenos Aires. She was tried at the same time as Isidoro.

The trial of Isidoro and Emilia was very irregular. During the trial there were 4 judges (in succession) and 3 different defense lawyers. The last lawyer did not even visit them outside of the courtroom.

The Gelsteins lost their son to an assassination. Their daughter was arrested at the same time as Emilia. They were both picked up while visiting a friend on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. The daughter was detained 3 months, then released. She now lives in France.

The Gelsteins were both given 12 year sentences at the 1980 trial. She is still at Villa de Voto women's prison. Because of their age it is important that they be released as soon as possible.

Blanca Molciucsky is a socialologist being held in Villa de Voto in Buenos Aires. She was detained in 1975 and is still serving her sentence (we don't know its duration).

Blanca is in her late 30's and in very serious condition, both physically and psychologically. She has been operated on several times, tortured during her recovery from the surgery, and interrogated repeatedly after the torture. She has spent much time in the prison hospital in isolation, which has contributed to her deteriorating condition.

She has no family in the area and the only person to visit her is the Rabbi. Her release is critical to her health.

Emilio Arquiola was detained in 1973 and taken (under PEN) to Rawson prison. He was held until 1980 without trial, and when finally tried for "attacking a garrison" he was sentenced to 6 years in prison. He has still not been released, though he has now been imprisoned 10 years.

His situation is critical for many health reasons. Rawson prison is very close to the South Pole so life for all the prisoners is very difficult - but for Emilio it is a matter of life and death. He is a diabetic, and has been severely mistreated. He has had his insulin changed every day, both type and quantity. He has been denied meals, which is very dangerous for a diabetic condition. He has lost all of his teeth and is close to blindness. His condition has worsened considerably in the past few months, and his family believes he will not live out the year in Rawson.

Jorge Mario Domingo Marca, a lawyer, was arrested in 1974 as he was entering the law court in Catamarca province. At the time of his arrest he was recovering from an operation for a cerebral aneurism which had affected his central nervous system. Medical treatment to improve his post-operative condition was denied him following his arrest. Last year, Dr. Marca was transferred to Rawson prison and his state of health remains of deep concern to his family.

Anything you can do to be of assistance in establishing the circumstances of the disappearance of Monica Lemos, and your assistance in securing the release of the others, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mikulski
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.